



# Higgins Pond BREWSTER

25 Acres

Not To Be Used For Navigational Purposes



NICKERSON STATE PARK

## HIGGINS POND (Brewster)

### General Information:

This 25-acre natural kettlehole pond has an average depth of 29 feet and a maximum depth of 66 feet. Transparency is exceptional, extending to 26 feet. The bottom is sand and gravel, aquatic vegetation is scarce and the shoreline is undeveloped.

Higgins Pond is located in Nickerson State Park (see park map) which can be reached from Route 6 by taking Exit 11, heading north on Route 137, then east on Route 6A. An alternate route would be to take Route 6 to Exit 12 and head west on Route 6A. Once in the park, the pond is reached by taking Flax Pond Road. The access road is a steep, rutted dirt road suitable for four-wheel drive vehicles. It is on the left (northeast side) just before Little Cliff Pond. The pond is also accessible from a dirt road off Bakers Pond Road. The access is suitable for launching car top boats and canoes. Much of the shoreline can be waded.

In 1950 this pond became the first in Massachusetts to be reclaimed for trout management. Its deep, cold, well-oxygenated water was producing 3-pound brookies by 1955. The pond was subsequently used as an experimental pond and reclaimed in 1956, 1959, 1967, 1969, 1971 and 1973. In 1982, the pond was treated with ground limestone to counteract the effects of acid rain. In 1987, it was **designated as a catch and release pond** and stocked with the Temiscamee strain of brook trout with the potential to grow up to 8 pounds in weight! Additional Temiscamee strain brook trout were stocked in 1989, and will continue to be stocked when available and conditions warrant.

### Fish Populations:

The last survey of this pond, conducted in 1990, recorded five species present: brook trout, brown bullhead, pumpkinseed, killifish and rainbow smelt. The brookies ranged in size from 15 inches and 1.25 pounds to 20.5 inches and 3.5 pounds.

### Fishing:

**This pond is a catch and release, artificial lures only pond. No bait is allowed in possession of anglers in or near the pond.** These regulations are designed to allow the trout to reach their maximum growth potential, and they work. A

6-pound brook trout was reported caught in the pond in 1992! Fly fishermen generally have the best luck at this pond, although the big brookies will certainly hit hardware such as small spoons and spinners. The best flies are probably smelt imitations, although almost all streamers and some nymphs are effective at certain times. During high summer, weighted lines will be required to get lures or flies down to coldwater ranges of 22 to 45 feet.

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